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RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND RELATED FIELDS

Note verbale dated 25 August 1992 from the Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Chile to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to transmit herewith the text of resolution 520 (XXIV), adopted by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at its twenty-fourth session, held in Santiago, Chile, from 8 to 15 April 1992 (see annex).

That resolution, which deals with the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields, was adopted in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 46/235 and its circulation as a document under item 47 of the provisional agenda is requested.

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* A/47/150.

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Annex

520 (XXIV) RESTRUCTURING AND REVITALIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL FIELDS: ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 40/237, 41/213 and 43/174 on the review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolutions 44/103 and 45/177 on the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

Bearing in mind also section IV of the annex to General Assembly resolution 45/264, which calls for a review of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council to be carried out at the forty-sixth session of the Assembly with the objective of possible restructuring and revitalization and with a view to avoiding duplication,

Noting the steps already announced by the Secretary-General regarding the restructuring of the Secretariat in order to respond effectively to the challenges facing it,

Noting also General Assembly resolution 46/235,

Recalling Committee of the Whole resolution 419(PLEN.14) on the rationalization of the institutional structure and the pattern of meetings of the ECLAC system, and resolution 489(PLEN.19) on the intergovernmental structure and functions of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean,

Re-emphasizing its conviction that the activities entrusted to the Commission by Economic and Social Council resolution 106 (VI) are fully consistent with the development efforts of its member countries, within the broader context of a revitalized programme of the United Nations in the economic and social fields,

1. Expresses its appreciation for the effective work performed by the Commission and for its significant contribution to economic thinking and to Latin American and Caribbean development efforts in both the analytical and operational fields and in the realm of intraregional and international economic cooperation;

2. Expresses its conviction that the restructuring and revitalization process under way in the economic and social fields of the United Nations

should accord due consideration to the usefulness of the regional, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approach which has characterized the work of the Commission;

3. Recommends that the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields being currently undertaken by the General Assembly consider the desirability of:

(a) Increased decentralization in the execution of activities in the new organizational structure which is being created, based on the concept that the endeavours of the Organization at these fields can be carried out more efficiently and effectively at the field level on a regional and subregional basis;

(b) Improved coordination and Secretariat-wide coherence by reinforcing the activities of the regional commissions aimed at mutually supporting the activities of the organizations and agencies of the United Nations system in their respective regions through, inter alia, intensifying joint activities and emphasizing joint programming exercises and meetings;

(c) A clear division of responsibilities regarding regional technical cooperation activities between the regional commissions on the one hand and the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Population Fund on the other, in particular by requesting coordination prior to the submission of regional projects and activities to Governments;

(d) Improved effectiveness of the technical cooperation activities provided by the United Nations to countries - through the intermediary of the regular programme of technical cooperation - by decentralizing more of the resources allotted to the Commission under section 12 of the budget and by strengthening its capacity as an agency responsible for executing operational activities and technical cooperation projects at regional level in Latin America and the Caribbean, where the Commission, by virtue of its programme of work, is in a better position to take action;

4. Expresses the conviction that the simplicity of the intergovernmental structure of the ECLAC system (which includes ILPES and CELADE) and the procedure of holding meetings of the Commission in biennial sessions have proved to be effective in meeting the objectives of the Commission;

5. Decides to transmit this resolution, together with the relevant section of the report of the twenty-fourth session of the Commission and, as a background paper, the document entitled Restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic and social fields: role and functions of ECLAC (LC/G.1716(SES.24/18) to the intergovernmental bodies which are currently charged with the restructuring exercise.